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From: Daly, Carl
Sent: Tue 7/9/2013 11:33:39 PM
Subject: RE: AP: Electric utilities launch campaign to oppose EPA regional haze plan affecting Wyo. coal power

Carl Daly

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From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2013 5:18 PM
To: Cantor, Howard; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Allen, Matthew; Fells, Sandy; Daly, Carl; McGrath, Shaun; Fallon, Gail; Watchman-Moore, Derrith
Subject: AP: Electric utilities launch campaign to oppose EPA regional haze plan affecting Wyo. coal power

FYI. Per previous email, initial AP article on WY Regional Haze.

Mead Gruver, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyoming — Several electric utilities on Tuesday announced a campaign to rally public opposition against a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plan to reduce atmospheric haze by further limiting air pollution from coal-fired power plants in Wyoming.

The EPA's latest proposals for a haze-reduction plan for Wyoming would drive up electricity rates by requiring expensive pollution-control measures, electricity officials said.

Gov. Matt Mead's office estimates the measures would cost utilities over \$1 billion, pointed out Basin Electric Power Cooperative spokesman Daryl Hill.

"It really starts with the production side and that's where the biggest costs are going to be," Hill said. "When you start factoring that into rates, that's certainly going to have an effect."

Yet the EPA plan, he said, would do no more to reduce haze than measures the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has proposed and that the EPA has rejected as inadequate.

The EPA is taking public comments through Aug. 26 and has scheduled two more public hearings — July 17 in Cheyenne and July 26 in Casper — on the proposal.

"As it has done with states across the country, EPA has worked, and will continue to work, with Wyoming to put in place a plan that relies on proven, cost-effective technologies to cut harmful pollution that reduces visibility," EPA spokesman Rich Mylott said in an emailed statement.

The "Stop EPA WY" campaign by Basic Electric Power Cooperative, the Missouri Basin Power Project, PacifiCorp, Rocky Mountain Power and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association will run television, radio and newspaper ads to oppose the regional haze plan. The utilities also have set up a website, <http://www.stopepawy.com>, through which

Environmental groups including WildEarth Guardians support the plan for attempting to clear the air in national parks and wilderness areas.

State officials counter that the EPA isn't allowing them or the public enough time to review and comment on the changes. They also say the plan ignores wildfires, which they say are more responsible than coal-fired power plants for the region's haze.

All the while, the plan targets a power source — coal — that drives a huge portion of Wyoming's economy. Wyoming produces around 40 percent of the nation's coal and more than any other state by far.

Hill said it's difficult to estimate by how much the EPA's proposed measures, which include tighter controls on nitrous oxide emissions, would drive up electricity rates.

But he said Basin Electric already has invested a lot of money in pollution controls at its Laramie River Station power plant near Wheatland. The plant — along with PacifiCorp's Dave Johnston, Jim Bridger, Naughton and Wyodak units — is among those that would need modifications under the EPA plan released in May.

"The folks in Wyoming would know best what should be done for Wyoming's air. EPA is just sort of overstepping that and proposing something that would have no perceptible effect," Hill said.